

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 13-14, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (U.S. 6,477,276).

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue (U.S. 6,477,276) as applied to claims 4 and 13 above, and further in view of Vora (U.S. 6,463,162).

The Examiner rejected claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue (U.S. 6,477,276) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Johnson et al. (“Exploring Steganography: Seeing the Unseen”).

The Examiner rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue (U.S. 6,477,276) and Johnson et al. (“Exploring Stenography: Seeing the Unseen”) as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Ohbuchi et al. (“Watermarking Three-Dimensional Polygonal Modals”).

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue (U.S. 6,477,276) as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Rhoads (U.S. 6,122,403).

Claim 7-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is kindly thanked for his indication of the potential allowance of claims 7-8. Claims 7, 17, and 19 have been amended to include the limitations of the independent claims plus the limitations of claim 7. Claims 3, 5, 9, and 13-16 have been amended to change the dependencies from claim 1 to claim 7. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are in condition for allowance as per the Examiner’s suggestions on how to gain allowance for claims 7-8.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe

that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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